

January 27, 2007

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th Street
Hershler Bldg, Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

RE: Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – Powder River Basin Resource Council et al –
WQD Chapter 2

Dear Mr. Gordon,

My name is Tony Wyllie and I work for Yates Petroleum Corporation in Gillette, Wyoming as part of their Coal Bed Natural Gas production team. I am writing to let you know that I vehemently oppose the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking – Powder River Basin Resource Council et al – WQD Chapter 2.

I have lived in Wyoming for all of my 37 years of life. I am originally from Cody and went to school in Laramie. After college I prepared myself and my young family to move out of Wyoming to look for a decent paying job for myself and family. I was lucky enough to hear about the young CBNG play starting in NE Wyoming and consider myself terribly lucky to be able to continue to live in Wyoming and make a very good wage. The CBNG industry and specifically Yates Petroleum gave that to me, and to many others.

I have been in the water permitting and environmental permitting side of the industry since February of 2001 and have seen all sides of the argument. I have seen areas where the water has greatly benefited ranchers, as well as, times where it has caused significant problems. In every case, however, the two sides have come to agreement and CBNG production has continued. Have both sides been happy with the agreement? Probably not, it's in our nature to want everything our way and to be upset when we have to give in. However, I feel that the positives that are created by this industry far outweigh the troubles of 20 or so individuals. I've heard that members of your council don't want to hear any more from ranchers and individuals that have gotten many benefits from the water produced from CBNG wells, that they want to hear answers to the problem. Well I ask you and them have the petitioners in this case given any reasonable solutions? I don't think so. I know 20 or so people that have been in car wrecks, does that mean that we should go out and make a rule to not build anymore vehicles or not give out any more drivers permits? Obviously not, all we need to do is use some common sense and come to an agreement. We do not need to shut down the entire industry!

In my time working in the environmental permitting of CBNG wells I have worked extensively with the WDEQ – WQD while attempting to permit water discharge. I have

always found them to be very environmentally conscious and working hard to make the discharge of water as environmentally protective as possible. Therefore, you can be sure that I was surprised when I saw that the Administrator of the WQD – John Wagner, had written a letter to your council stating that the WQD “not take action” on this petition as “there is probably no case where a CBM discharge would be able to meet all of the conditions of this section”. I believe this letter should carry some considerable weight in the situation. It’s also interesting that the council has basically ignored its legal councils, the Wyoming State Attorney Generals Office, cautioning that the petition is both arbitrary and capricious.

Again, I am born and raised in Wyoming and the CBNG industry has provided myself, my wife and two daughters a home in the state that we love, money for the school system to help increase the quality of education my children get, money that allows, in my opinion, the State of Wyoming to stay away from a state income tax, as well as, hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs in a state that always has its government wondering why it can’t keep young people in the state to work, just to name a few things. I am opposed to the petition and all it represents.

Signed,



Tony Wyllie
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